

Message Text

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44

ACTION MED-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SCI-06 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 SCSE-00 SS-20 INR-11 IO-14

NSAE-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00 HEW-08 AID-20 FDRE-00 DODE-00

ST-01 /106 W

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O R 301356Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7034

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

USCINCSO

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 2115

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMED, UY, BR

SUBJ: MENINGITIS EPIDEMIC IN BRAZIL

BRASILIA FOR DR. KOOP

1. MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH HERE ANNOUNCED TO PRESS JULY 28 THAT THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN URUGUAY HAS BEEN IN A "STATE OF ALERT" FOR MORE THAN 15 DAYS ON ACCOUNT OF THE OUTBREAK OF MENINGITIS IN BRAZIL, PARTICULARLY SAO PAULO. ALTHOUGH NO CASES OF MENINGITIS HAVE AS YET BEEN REPORTED IN URUGUAY, EMBASSY IS CONCERNED AND WISHES TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO PROTECT ITS STAFF.

2. DOES DEPARTMENT BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE, CONSIDERING PROXIMITY OF SOME OF AFFECTED AREAS OF BRAZIL, THAT PRECAUTIONARY AND PROTECTIVE MEASURES THROUGH VACCINATION BE IMPLEMENTED HERE?

3. IF ANSWER TO ABOVE QUESTION'S AFFIRMATIVE, IS THERE
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CURRENTLY AVAILABLE AN EFFECTIVE VACCINE TO COUNTER THE

TYPE OF MENINGITIS NOW IN BRAZIL WHICH COULD BE OBTAINED FOR USE HERE? IF VACCINE EXISTS, ADVISE HOW AND FROM WHERE IT CAN BE PROCURED. IF MEDICAL DIVISION CAN OBTAIN VACCINE, ESTIMATED AMOUNT NEEDED AND PRIORITIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A) AMERICAN EMPLOYEES, DEPENDENTS AND DOMESTIC STAFF, 310 DOSES.

B) URUGUAYAN-AMERICAN SCHOOL, STUDENTS AND TEACHERS, 155 DOSES.

C) LOCAL EMPLOYEES, 237 DOSES.

4. SINCE MANY MEDICINES ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN MONTEVIDEO, AND REGARDLESS OF RESPONSE TO PARA 3 ABOVE, POST MEDICAL ADVISOR STANHAM HAS RECOMMENDED THAT A SUPPLY OF APPROPRIATE MEDICINE TO BE USED IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY FOR EMBASSY STAFF OR DEPENDENT CONTRACTS BE ORDERED NOW. HE RECOMMENDED "BACTRIN ROCHE". WOULD APPRECIATE DG/MED'S ADVICE ON WHICH MEDICINE OR MEDICINES EMBASSY SHOULD HAVE AVAILABLE FOR AN EMERGENCY APART FROM QUESTION POSED IN PARAS 2 AND 3.

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